

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 AID-05 L-03 H-01
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R 141650Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3759

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3337

EO 11552: GDS
TAGS: SHUM PA
SUBJECT: POLITICAL PRISONER: NAPOLEON ORTIGOSA

REF A) STATE 202064 B) ASUNCION 3208 C) ASUNCION 443

1. NAPOLEON ORTIGOSA'S FULL NAME IS NAPOLEON MILCIADES ORTIGOSA MAIDANA. EMBASSY BELIEVES TWO PERSONS NAMED REFTEL ARE ACTUALLY ONE AND THE SAME PERSON. HE HAS NOT BEEN FREED. ORTIGOSA, A MILITARY OFFICER AT THE TIME, WAS SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN PRISON IN 1962 BY A MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE MURDER OF A MILITARY CADET. RECENTLY, MANY APPEALS HAVE BEEN MADE ON HIS BEHALF AS HE IS BELIEVED TO BE INSANE. HOWEVER, THE GOP HAS REFUSED TO RELEASE ESCOLASTICO GUILLERMO OVANDO, WHO RECEIVED A 15-YEAR SENTENCE IN THE SAME CASE, EVEN THOUGH HE COMPLETED HIS SENTENCE IN DECEMBER 1977. OVANDO IS CURRENTLY DETAINED UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION. OVANDO'S

CONTINUED DETENTION DIMS THE CHANCES THAT ORTIGOSA, WHO STILL HAS MORE THAN NINE YEARS TO GO ON HIS SENTENCE, WILL BE RELEASED SOON.

2. AN UP-TO-DATE LIST OF POLITICAL PRISONERS WAS PROVIDED IN REFTEL B. THE ONLY CHANGE IS THE RELEASE OF CELSA RAMIREZ FERNANDEZ. AS INDICATED PREVIOUSLY, WE NO LONGER
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CONSIDER PEOPLE UNDER HOUSE ARREST TO BE PRISONERS AS THEY IN FACT ARE ALLOWED TO MOVE ABOUT FREELY. MISSING PRISONERS ARE THE SAME AS THOSE PROVIDED REFTEL C WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DOROTEO GRANDEL WHO THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES RELEASED.

3. EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM RUMORS THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE BEING HELD IN THE ARMY GARRISON NEAR TACUMBU

OTHER THAN ESCOLASTICO OVANDO (REFTEL B). THE GOP DOES NOT
ADMIT THAT HE OR ANY OTHERS ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS.

4. OF THE 24 PRISONERS CURRENTLY HELD, ONLY FIVE
HAVE UNDERGONE SOME FORM OF LEGAL PROCESSING AND ONLY JUAN FELIX
BOGADO GONDRA HAS COMPLETED THE JUDICIAL PROCESS.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PRISONERS
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Draft Date: 14 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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